

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1611

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

DIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

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SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS HOLD FIRST CONGRESS

SUMMARY: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH IS PROGRAMATICALLY TO RIGHT OF CDS, HELD FIRST CONGRESS FEB 1-2, ANNOUNCING IT WOULD SOON LEGALIZE ITSELF IN ORDER TO COMPETE IN ELECTIONS. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS. PARTY, OF WHICH LITTLE HEARD RECENTLY, IS FIRST TO BE HEADED BY EX-MEMBER OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, MAJ SANCHES OSORIO. IF PARTY MANAGES TO LEGALIZE AND CAN FIND CANDIDATES, IT MAY DRAW SOME ELECTORAL SUPPORT FROM RIGHT WING SUPPORTERS OF CDS. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER LEADERSHIP OF ITS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL, MAJ SANCHES OSORIO, PORTUGUESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC) HELD ITS FIRST CONGRESS OVER WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 1-2 IN PORT CITY OF FIGUEIRA DA FOZ. SOME 200 DELEGATES ATTENDED, PROTECTED BY DISCREET PRESENCE OF COPCON FORCES THERE TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF MOB VIOLENCE AS OCCURRED AT CENTER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS PREVIOUS WEEK IN OPORTO. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS.

2. CONGRESS CHOSE NEW PARTY LEADERSHIP, APPROVED STATUTES, AND RATIFIED PARTY IDEOLOGICAL LINE, WHICH IS BASICALLY CONSERVATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. PARTY DECLARED ITSELF OPEN TO ALL PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION, WHO SEEK A "HUMANIST AND EUROPE-ORIENTED PORTUGAL." PARTY CLARIFIED THAT IS CHRISTIAN BUT NOT LINKED TO CATHOLIC CHURCH; THAT IT NOT RIGHT WING NOR LEFT WING, BUT RATHER AGAINST DICTATORSHIPS AND ALL TOTALITARIANISMS, WHETHER OF LEFT OR RIGHT.

3. SANCHES OSORIO, FIRST EX-ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT MEMBER TO HEAD A POLITICAL PARTY, AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS UNTIL OUSTED WITH SPINOLA, ANNOUNCED THAT PDC WOULD PRESENT SUPREME COURT WITH NECESSARY 5000 SIGNATURES OF MEMBERS TO BECOME LEGAL "WITHIN A FEW DAYS." HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT PARTY WOULD JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACIES ON FEBRUARY 13.

4. COMMENT: LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD FROM THE PDC SINCE LAST SEP 28 WHEN IT SUPPORTED THE SILENT MAJORITY RALLY FOR SPINOLA. IT HAS HELD NO RALLIES SINCE JUNE 15, AND RARELY HAS ITS COMMUNIQUE PUBLISHED IN PRESS. WITH SANCHES OSORIO AS SECRETARY GENERAL THE PARTY SHOULD BE SOMEWHAT REJUVENATED. IT IS NOT CERTAIN, DESPITE OSORIO'S CLAIM, THAT PDC WILL OBTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUIRED SIGNATURES TO BECOME LEGAL. CDS SECRETARY GENERAL AMARO DA COSTA BELIEVES PARTY NOT SUFFICIENTLY ORGANIZED TO OBTAIN REQUIRED SIGNATURES, BUT SAYS THAT IF THEY DO, AND IF THEY CAN SCRAPE UP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS, THEN PDC MIGHT GIVE SOME ELECTORAL COMPETITION TO CDS. PDC, IN HIS OPINION, WOULD DRAW OFF FAR RIGHT VOTE FROM CDS INASMUCH AS CDS MORE LIBERAL THAN PDC. EMBASSY KNOWS THAT CERTAIN PRE-APRIL 25 OLD REGIME FIGURES VERBALLY AND PRIVATELY

SUPPORT PDC, BUT EXTENT AND TYPE OF THIS SUPPORT NOT KNOWN.

5. ON QUESTION OF PDC ADMISSION TO EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATIC UNION (EDCU), DA COSTA STATES THAT PDC ADMISSION
NOT ASSURED, AND THAT IT WILL MERELY STATE ITS CASE FOR
ADMISSION FEBRUARY 13. HE DID NOT STATE THE CDS POSITION ON
PDC ADMISSION TO EDCU.
CARLUCCI

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